

LOUDOUN COUNTY EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL, INC.

ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

May 19, 2003

The March meeting of the ALS Committee was held on May 19, 2003, with the following members in attendance:

Co. 3	A. Love	Co. 14	Excused
Co. 4	F. Muller	Co. 15	F. Gansel
Co. 6	J. Downs	Co. 17	Absent
Co. 8	N. Croce	LCFR	L Hale
Co. 9	K. Fraley	Chair	L. Kelly
Co. 10	T. Boan	LHC	B. McKinnon
Co. 12	K. Deli	OMD	Excused
Co. 13	M. Sirkus		

Public Comments

None

Minutes

A motion was made by Allie Love and seconded by James Downs that the minutes from the April 21, 2003, be approved as recorded. They're being no further discussion on the motion a voice vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

Motion: Approve April 21, 2003 minutes as recorded.

Vote: Approved

Loudoun Hospital Center Report

Beth McKinnon reported on the following items/issues:

1. In recognition of EMS Week, Dr. Ed Puccio, Director of the Emergency Department will be presenting a lecture on "Abdominal pain" on Thursday, May 22, 2003, at the Loudoun Hospital Center campus at Landsdowne. All members of the Fire-Rescue System are invited to attend. A light buffet will be provided.

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Loudoun Hospital Center Report (Continued)

2. Beth advised that there have been instances of Fair Oaks Hospital refusing critical patients due to critical care bed status. She asked members of the ALS Committee to remind their agency members that a hospital cannot refuse to accept a critical patient even if they have inadequate beds to admit the patient. The hospital has a requirement to accept the patient, treat and stabilize as may be necessary and then transfer the patient to an appropriate facility as may be indicated by the patient's condition.

3. Beth also reported that they are aware of several incidents and complaints that some physicians on the western end of the County are directing EMS units to transfer patients directly to the Landsdowne ER thus bypassing the Cornwall Street ER. These incidents are on Dr. Puccio's desk for him to communicate and address these issues with the physicians involved.

4. Since the last ALS Committee meeting there was an incident that occurred at the Cornwall Street campus that has been addressed by Lisa Joyce. A patient from the western end of the County was brought in accordance with policy to the Cornwall Street ER. After arrival it was determined by communication with the private physician that the patient was in fact a routine transport for a direct admission to Loudoun Hospital Center – Landsdowne. The EMS providers were directed to remove the patient from Cornwall and to take the patient to Landsdowne. Beth stated since the information of the patient was unknown prior to the patient's arrival, that in accordance with the agreed procedures, the responsibility for the transfer of the patient to Landsdowne rested with the hospital and that the EMS providers should not have been directed to take the patient from the Cornwall ER to Landsdowne. Lisa Joyce, RN, Manager of the Cornwall campus has spoken with her staff and this should not occur again in the future.

5. Beth advised that they remain aware of the continuing issues with delays associated with the replacement of drugs at the Cornwall campus. She advised that they continue to look at ways to expedite the process.

Karen Deli expressed concerns about the long delays in replacing drugs at the Cornwall campus. She asked if there are any plans to place a Pyxis at the Cornwall Street Campus? Beth advised that there has been serious consideration to doing this however the cost has been the factor that continues to stand in the way.

Fred Muller also expressed concern about not being able to replace drugs due to expire at the Cornwall Street facility. He related his recent experience with the pharmacy at the Landsdowne campus in attempting to exchange expiring controlled substances and expiring medications for several western EMS agencies. He said that his experience was so exasperating that he eventually called the Nursing Supervisor for assistance with the process. He stated that he did not believe that the problems were with the ER personnel but rested with the pharmacy itself.

Loudoun Hospital Center Report (Continued)

Nick Croce expressed concern over the continuing pharmacy issues that continue to be discussed at each ALS Committee meeting. He stated that the EMS agencies in the County account for a large number of admissions to Loudoun Hospital Center and that translates into income for the organization. He stated that Loudoun Hospital Center posted a 14 million dollar profit margin last year. The decision to support issues such as the placement of a Pyxis should be a non-issue based on the generated income.

Leo Kelly states that he and Linda Hale will approach David Goldberg tomorrow evening at the EMS Council to see if he has any suggestions on rectifying the issues with the pharmacy.

Medical Director's Report

No Report

Working Groups

ALS Protocols/ CD ROMS

Fred Muller has been participating in this process and gave a brief report. He stated that the project has been held up to allow for amendments to be made to several of the protocols. One was to change the helicopter policy to reflect the policy adopted by the Fire-Rescue Commission regarding the one patient, one helicopter policy. In addition, changes to the drug replacement policy at the hospital will need to be reflected based on the position of the LHC Pharmacy that they no longer wish for ALS Providers to come to the pharmacy to exchange large quantities of expiring drugs. He said that he would talk with Jose Salazar about starting the process of posting the non-questionable Protocols and Policies into PDF format.

Linda Hale also advised that the Training Center had purchased a CD ROM copying device that will allow for the production of 10 CDs at one time.

Courses

Battalion Chief Linda Hale provided the report for the Training Division.

1. The EMT/E to EMT/I evening course and daytime EMT/B to EMT/I program all appear to being on schedule and doing well at this point.

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Courses (Continued)

2. An ALS Preceptor Class has been scheduled for May 27, 2003, with the pre-test for the class scheduled for May 21, 2003.

The following personnel have registered for the class and their acceptance into the program will be dependent on successfully passing the pre-test and approval of the ALS Committee:

Anne Hoover Co. 15
James Harvey, LCFR
James Willis, Co. 15
John Grant, LCFR
Micah Kier, LCFR
Sean Scott, LCFR
Tristen Juszczak, Co. 15

A discussion of the registrants occurred amongst ALS Committee members.

A motion was made by Allie Love and seconded by Fred Muller that the following be approved to take the pre-test:

Anne Hoover, Co. 15
James Harvey, LCFR
James Willis, Co. 15
John Grant, LCFR
Micah Kiger, LCFR
Sean Scott, LCFR

They're being no further discussion on the motion a voice vote was taken and the motion was approved with Company 15 abstaining from the vote.

Motion: Approve candidates for Preceptor Pre-Test and if successful the Preceptor Class on May 21, 2003.

Vote: Approved

It was clarified that all preceptors begin precepting at the EMT/ST-D level. In the past if these current preceptors meet the time requirements, are recommended by the EMS Agency Chief and approved by the ALS Committee for the next level of preceptor (EMT/CT-I-P) they have been required to attend another class of instruction. This seems to be redundant since the classroom session is the same for both levels of preceptors.

Courses (Continued)

It is the recommendation of the Training Division that if a current ST/E Preceptor is recommended for the next higher level (EMT/CT-I-P) that there be no requirement to re-attend the Preceptor Class, but rather that they only be required to be approved by the ALS Committee and pass the pre-test for that level.

The ALS Committee members agreed with this recommendation without objection.

3. An AED/Combitube Instructor Class has been scheduled for May 22, 2003, with the pre-test for the class scheduled for May 20, 2003.

The following individuals have registered for the AED/Combitube Instructor Class scheduled for May 22, 2003 and the pre-test on May 20, 2003:

Isabella Askari, Co. 13
Jeff Rashap, Co. 13
John Grant, LCFR
Marc Sirkus, Co. 13
Matthew Sheehan, Co.13
Sean Scott, LCFR
Tristen Juszczak, Co. 15
Katherine Lanouette, Co. 15

There was a discussion of the candidates by the ALS Committee.

A motion was made by Allie Love and seconded by Fred Muller that the following candidates be approved to take the pre-test for the AED/Combitube Instructor on May 20, 2003:

Isabella Askari, Co. 13
Jeff Rashap, Co. 13
John Grant, Co. 13
Marc Sirkus, Co. 13
Matthew Sheehan, Co. 13
Sean Scott, LCFR
Tristen Juszczak, Co. 15

In addition, that Byron Andrews, Chief 15 be contacted to verify that he concurs with the inclusion of Katherine Lanouette in the class. If he concurs, that she be automatically added to the list of approved candidates.

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Courses (Continued)

They're being no further discussion on the motion a voice vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

Motion: **Approve candidates for AED/Combitube Instructor Class Pre-Test and if successful the AED/Combitube Instructor Class on May 22, 2003.**

Vote: **Approved**

4. An ACLS Class will be held on June 7, 8, 2003, for the students in the EMT/B to EMT/I class and the EMT/Enhanced to EMT/I class. On June 8, 2003, an ACLS Renewal Class will also be conducted with limited slots open to the entire system.

5. Chief Hale stated that it was her belief that the PEEP class originally scheduled for May 28, 29, 2003, will be postponed since they were unable to provide an equal offering to the evening class. They are still looking for ways to provide the opportunity to both classes.

ALS Technician Status

Fred Gansel reported on the Preceptorship status of Loudoun County Providers.

1. There are currently 7 ALS Providers precepting in Loudoun County.
2. Gansel recommended the release of three precepting ALS Providers:

Lisa Raper, EMT/E - Company 14
Tim Moses, EMT/E – Company 15
Derrick Bennett, EMT/E – Company 9

A motion was made by Fred Gansel and seconded by Allie Love that Lisa Raper, Time Moses and Derrick Bennett be recommended to the Medical Director for release from preceptorship at the EMT/E level. They're being no further discussion on the motion a voice vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

Motion: **Recommend to the Medical Director the release of Lisa Raper, Tim Moses, Derrick Bennett from preceptorship at the EMT/E level.**

Vote: **Approved**

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Old Business

1. Status of drug replacement issues was discussed under report of Loudoun Hospital report.
2. Leo Kelly and Linda Hale attended the ER Physicians meeting to discuss several EMS related issues regarding dual medical control and helicopter evacuations from the field. Kelly reported that they had a very positive meeting. It was clarified by administration, that the helipads at both of the Loudoun Hospital facilities could be used without incurring a liability on the part of the hospital to provide care. Obviously if a patient condition deteriorates prior to the arrival of the helicopter, the patient can be taken into the facility for stabilization.

Based on several issues, Dr. Sabella has requested that we sit down and re-visit our current policy and criteria for requesting medical evacuations for the scene.

3. At the previous meeting, Fred Gansel was asked to check on the status of 4 ALS Providers from Company 15 who had still not picked up the their ALS Keys.

Andrea Walter (Recently married – ALS status unknown)
Sherilee Long (Recently married – ALS status unknown)
Vicky Childs (Maternity LOA)
Michele Frazelle (Scholastic LOA)

4. The EMS Council approved the purchase of FAST ONE Trainers from the TWO-FOR-LIFE account. Allie Love, EMS Council Treasurer has ordered the trainers for each the ALS EMS Transport Agency. This should assist the agencies in maintaining the proficiency and use of the device by their ALS Providers.

New Business

1. Leo Kelly congratulated Linda Hale on the receipt of the Clark Deener Award for extraordinary service the Loudoun County Emergency Medical Services System and the citizens of Loudoun County.
2. Kelly also offered congratulations to Jack Merritt as the ALS Instructor of the Year and to Kathleen Leary as the BLS Instructor of the Year.
3. Chief Griffin has offered to help in the resolution of the thermal regulation of the systems drug compartments. It is estimated that the cost will be approximately \$70,000, to thermal regulate the drug compartments. Griffin said that he would allocate \$35,000, to the EMS Council toward this project. The remainder would come from new Two-For-Life monies.

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New Business (Continued)

4. There have been some issues with the dispatch of Maryland units into the Neersville area and the simultaneous dispatch of Lovettsville. On the one incident it seemed to generate some tension. At the last Chief's meeting, Mike Carter from Communications stated that an error had been made on adding Maryland into an automatic dispatch in the area and that the recommended dispatch would be changed.

5. Allie Love brought to the attention of the ALS Committee that the new OEMS representative for Fauquier County has been issuing citations for not locking the cabinets containing the IV fluids in the vehicles. Ken Pullen had advised us in the past that he would not be enforcing this requirement for IV fluids and administration sets. It is the belief of the committee that this may be a result of the new OEMS representative being new on the job.

6. Linda Hale also advised that she has become aware of the fact that at least one of the Loudoun County EMS Agencies had the wrong Triage Tags on their vehicles that were not in keeping with the tags approved regionally.

There being no further business to come before the ALS Committee a motion was made by Allie Love and seconded by James Downs that the meeting be adjourned. They're being no further discussion of the motion a vote was taken and the meeting was adjourned at 2140 hours.

Motion: Adjournment

Vote: Approved

The next meeting of the ALS Committee is scheduled for the Loudoun County Fire-Rescue Training Center on June 16, 2003, at 1930 hours.

Submitted on behalf of the ALS Committee:

**Leo C. Kelly, PA
Co-Chairman
Loudoun County ALS Committee**

05/20/03 LCK